

Message Text

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12
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 SAB-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PN
SUBJECT: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS: PARENTS TAKE TO THE PAPERS

1. SUBSEQUENT TO THEIR CHILDREN'S PROTESTS ON SEPT. 10 AND 13, TWO PANAMANIAN PTA-TYPE ORGANIZATIONS ISSUED COMMUNIQUE IN SEPT. 14 PRESS ON THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND VIOLENCE. BOTH GROUPS CRITICIZES THE VIOLENCE, POLITICS IN THE SCHOOLS, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN BOTH--BUT FOR QUITE DIVERGENT REASONS.

2. PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE INSTITUTO NACIONAL (IN) BLAMED FRIDAY'S BATTLE BETWEEN IN STUDENTS AND THOSE FROM OTHER CITY HIGH SCHOOLS, AND ENSUING DAMAGE TO IN BUILDING ON THE FEP (FEDERATION OF PANAMANIAN STUDENTS). STATEMENT SINGLED OUT FOR CRITICISM EDUCATION MINISTRY AND ITS OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS BECAUSE FEP OPERATES WITH THEIR COMPLAISANCE.

3. COMMUNIQUE DEMANDED THE GOP CUT OFF FEP'S GOVERNMENT FUNDING, ABOLISH THE OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS, AND RESPOND TO THE IN STUDENTS' AND PARENTS' PETITION ON THE PRICE INCREASES PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT LAKAS ON SEPT. 13.

4. LESS POLARIZED PARENTAL CONCERN WAS SHOWN IN THE
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COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE

HIGH SCHOOLS OF PANAMA PROVINCE. THIS GROUP LAMBASTED THOSE "UNSCRUPULOUS LEADERS" WHO INCITE THE IMMATURE PASSIONS AND ADOLESCENTS, REPROVED GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR POLITICIZING OF THE STUDENT POPULATION, AND DEPLORED THE CONSEQUENT DAMAGE TO SCHOLASTIC STANDARDS. IT ALSO CALLED ON THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION TO STOP BELITTling THE GROWING VIOLENCE IN THE PROVINCE'S HIGH SCHOOLS, AND TO START PUTTING THE EDUCATIONAL HOUSE BACK IN ORDER.

5. COMMENT: SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE COMMUNIQUEs, AS OF OTHERS WHICH HAVE COME OUT IN RECENT DAYS ON THE RADIO AND IN THE PRESS IS THAT THEY WERE CARRIED BY THE CLOSELY-WATCHED MEDIA. THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS, IN THE WAKE OF FRIDAY'S VIOLENCE, FAR MORE WILLING THAN USUAL TO ALLOW CRITICS TO AIR THEIR GRIPEs AGAINST ITS POLICIES IN THE MEDIA.

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